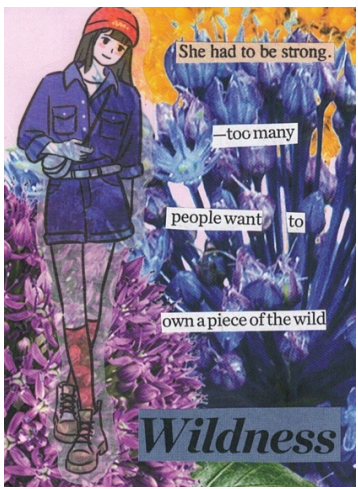
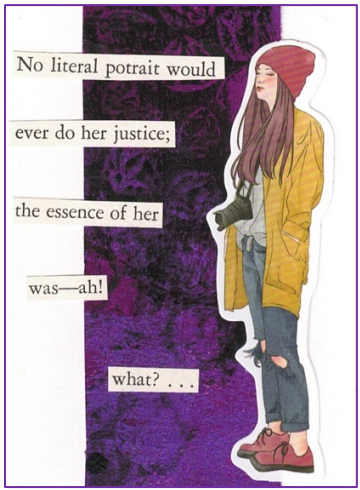
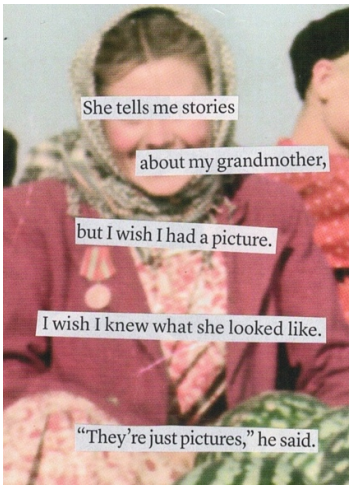
"i resent being used for other people's purposes"

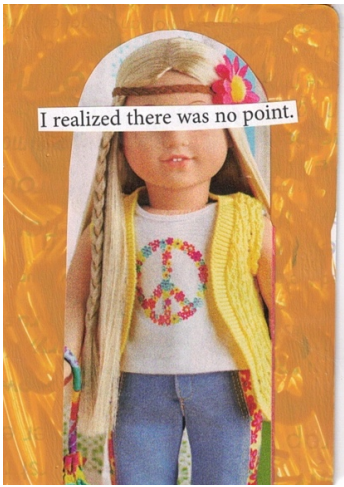
miniature collages
murphyao ink
chicago
2026

I want to be with those
who know secret things,
or else alone.


She had to be strong.
—too many
people want to
own a piece of the wild
Wildness

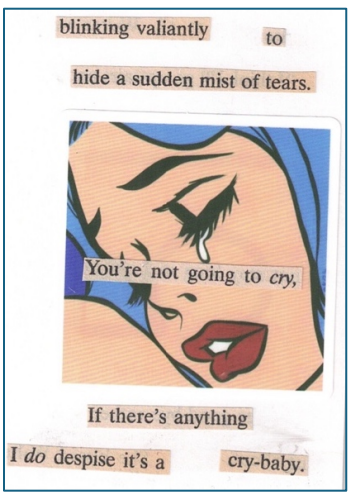

No literal potrait would
ever do her justice;
the essence of her
was—ah!
what? . . .


She tells me stories
about my grandmother,
but I wish I had a picture.
I wish I knew what she looked like.
"They're just pictures," he said.

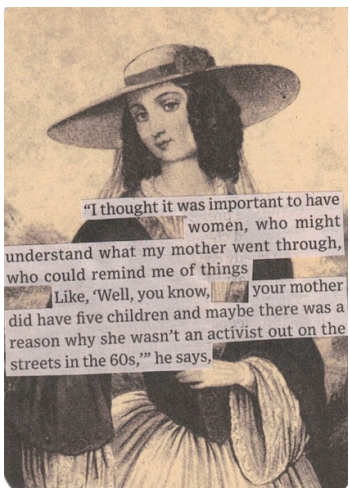

I realized there was no point.

she never seems to be
as upset as she should be.
Why doesn't she
Leave
Oh, they don't do that

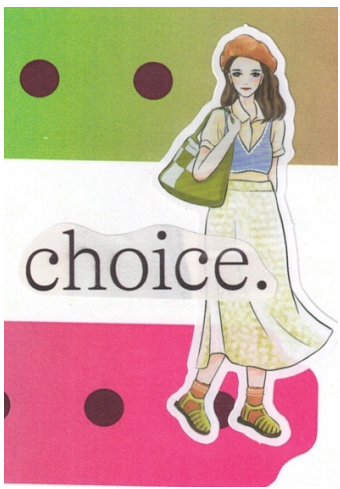
she
mustn't cry.
If she let herself go
and cried
it would be worse


blinking valiantly
to
hide a sudden mist of tears.
You're not going to *cry*,
If there's anything
I *do* despise it's a
cry-baby.

just a little badass
with a baby face


"I thought it was important to have women, who might understand what my mother went through, who could remind me of things Like, 'Well, you know, your mother did have five children and maybe there was a reason why she wasn't an activist out on the streets in the 60s,'" he says.

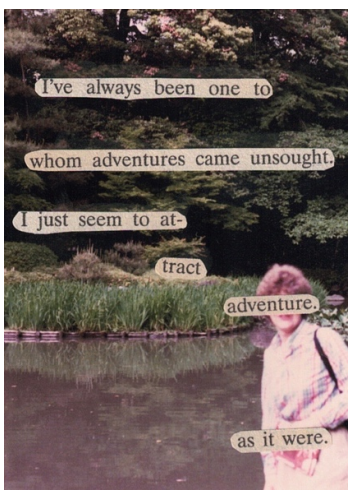
people choose.
–all that is happening
We don't get to choose.
the impact
it was
really [expletive] hard

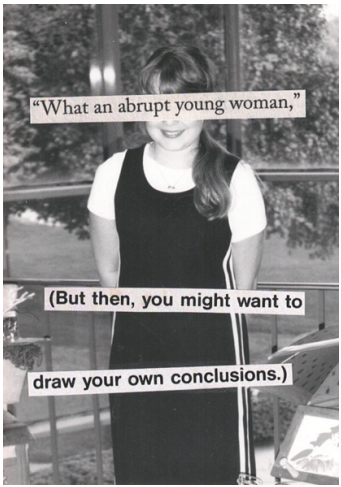

choice.

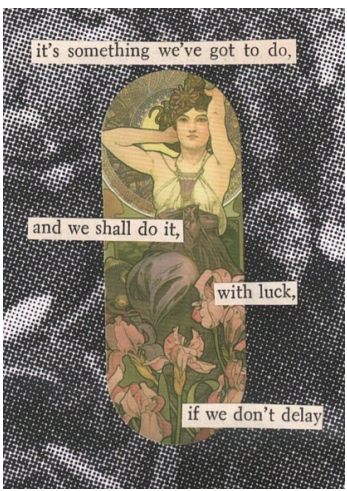
I rolled my eyes.
But that doesn't really matter.

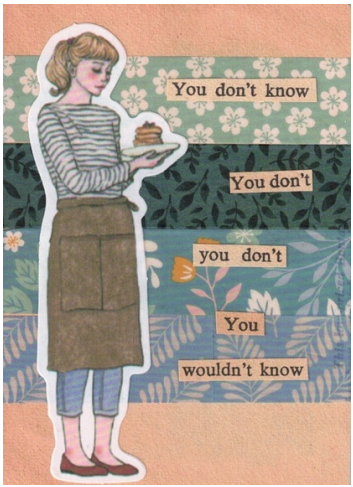
It doesn't matter now.

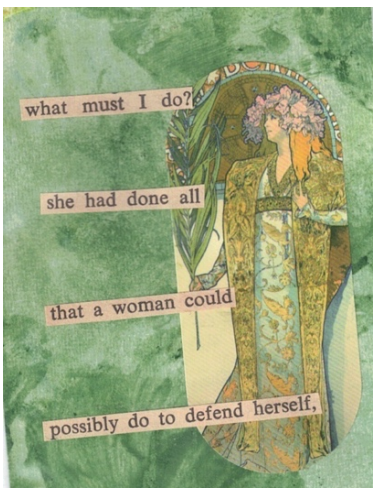
I feel like
I'm ready
for anything.


I've always been one to
whom adventures came unsought.
I just seem to at-
tract
adventure.
as it were.

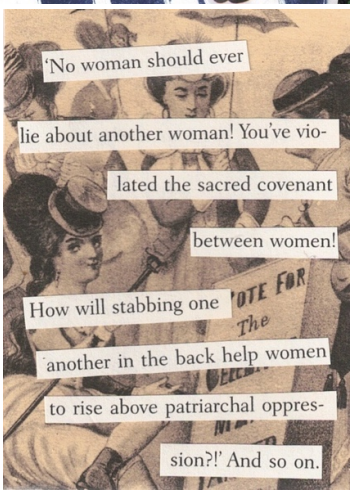

"What an abrupt young woman,"
(But then, you might want to
draw your own conclusions.)


it's something we've got to do,
and we shall do it,
with luck,
if we don't delay

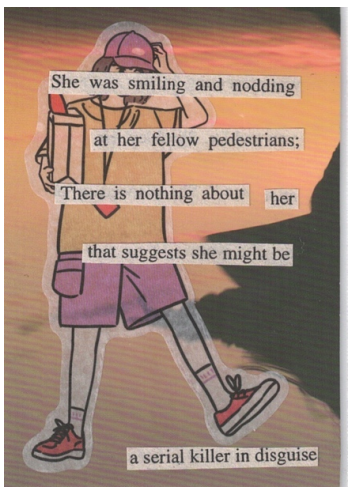

You don't know
You don't
you don't
You
wouldn't know


what must I do?
she had done all
that a woman could
possibly do to defend herself,

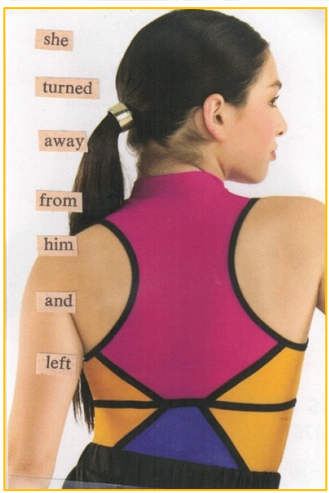
follow the Golden Rule: do unto
others as you would have others do unto
you.


'No woman should ever
lie about another woman! You've vio-
lated the sacred covenant
between women!
How will stabbing one
another in the back help women
to rise above patriarchal oppres-
sion?!' And so on.

she was
rather unusual
highly unusual


She was smiling and nodding
at her fellow pedestrians;
There is nothing about her
that suggests she might be
a serial killer in disguise

"No," she said.

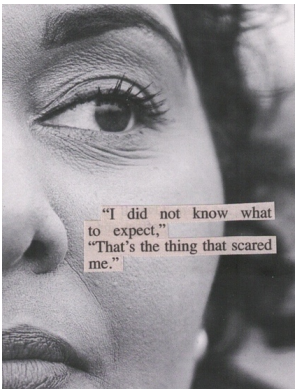

she
turned
away
from
him
and
left

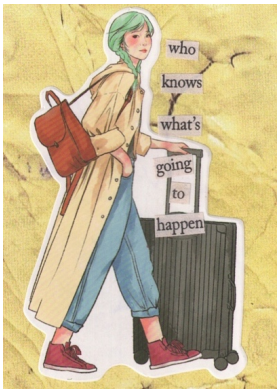
she was avoiding me.

we haven't caught her,

and— It's a bit complicated.
"Don't be ridiculous,"
"It sounds quite ridiculous,"

"little more than a toy",
but quite deadly enough.
You better be careful,
I told him I knew how to handle it,
like
"Robin Hood."





this anthology is dedicated to
strong female role models

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